

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 477

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor James Ray Johnson upon his
posthumous induction into the Wilson County
Agricultural Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, agriculture has been a cornerstone of Wilson County since the county's founding in 1799, and those citizens involved in farming have always been a vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we specially recognize those outstanding citizens who have dedicated their lives to promoting the importance of agriculture in our society; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual was James Ray Johnson, who has been posthumously inducted into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame for his hard work and commitment to continuing the legacy of the family farm in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, born on June 24, 1926, to Herbert and Novada Tomlinson Johnson of the Centerville community, Mr. Johnson attended Taylorsville School and Lebanon High School before leaving to run the family farm in 1939 after the passing of his father; and

WHEREAS, a full-time farmer at the age of sixteen, James Ray Johnson was able to manage the 500 acres with the help of the Herman Dies family, who moved onto the farm to assist him; and

WHEREAS, as an adult, Mr. Johnson passed the farming tradition along to his sons, Mike and Mark, who quickly learned the ropes of managing the farm, raising cattle, hogs, and various row crops, including tobacco; and

WHEREAS, during his many years as an agricultural leader in Wilson County, James Ray Johnson served as president of the Wilson County Livestock Association and was named Outstanding Young Farmer of the Year; he was also a member of the Wilson Farmers'

Cooperative board of directors for twenty-eight years and served as a member of the board of directors of the Wilson County Farm Bureau; and

WHEREAS, his contributions from his early start as a full-time farmer until his death in August 1988 were vast; his record of public service included nearly twenty-five years as a member of the Wilson County Quarterly Court and County Commission, and he was instrumental in securing the land for the Wilson County Cooperative and the land that is currently used for the James Ward Agricultural Center; and

WHEREAS, wholly devoted to improving the well-being of his fellow citizens, James Ray Johnson also served on the Wilson County Road Commission and the Wilson County Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, aside from his many professional accomplishments, Mr. Johnson was most grateful for the love of his dear wife, Elizabeth Gilmore Johnson, and their three children, Beverly, Mike, and Mark; and

WHEREAS, the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those dedicated citizens who committed themselves to developing and maintaining the highest standards and principles in their chosen vocation, and it is fitting that we honor the life of James Ray Johnson and his many contributions to agriculture and the farming community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor James Ray Johnson upon his posthumous induction into the Wilson County Agricultural Hall of Fame, reflecting fondly upon his many contributions to upholding the agricultural traditions of Wilson County and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.